



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **T-6**

February 20, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT
AWARD OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 2 AND 4
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Transtech Engineers to prepare plans, specifications and estimates, and provide construction assistance services for the Torrance Boulevard Traffic Signal Synchronization Project and to establish the effective date following the Board of Supervisors' approval. The Agreement will be for a not-to-exceed fee of \$256,728 to be financed with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Grant Funds and Proposition C Local Return Funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

We are recommending that your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Transtech Engineers for the preparation of construction documents and to provide for construction support and as-built plan preparation for the proposed Torrance Boulevard Project located in the Cities of Carson, Los Angeles, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and in County unincorporated areas, and to establish the effective date following Board approval.

When construction documents and jurisdictional approvals are completed, tentatively scheduled for September 2003, we plan to return to your Board to adopt plans, specifications, and advertise for bids to construct the project.

The recommended Consultant Services Agreement will provide design and construction support services for the Torrance Boulevard Project in support of Public Works' Traffic Signal Synchronization Program. The Project includes Torrance Boulevard from Pacific Coast Highway to Main Street. As part of our efforts to proceed with traffic signal synchronization on Countywide arterials of regional significance, Public Works has successfully used consulting firms to perform design work of a similar nature on other Projects.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness as this Consultant Agreement will provide for the design of traffic signal synchronization improvements on Torrance Boulevard using consultant expertise and will result in significant collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries. Completion of this Project will reduce congestion, vehicle emissions, vehicle operating costs, travel time, and improve motorist and pedestrian safety.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The Project will be financed with Los Angeles County MTA 1999 Call for Projects, Proposition C Discretionary Grant Funds for the South Bay Traffic Signal Forum, and County matching funds included in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Proposition C Local Return Fund Budget. The estimated total cost of the Project, including the design contract, is \$1,485,000. The MTA is providing approximately 77 percent of the funds and Public Works will finance the remaining 23 percent matching funds.

The recommended Agreement for design of the identified Project is for a not-to-exceed fee of \$256,728, including \$42,788 for unforeseen additional work which may arise during progress of the work. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Director of Public Works.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A standard agreement in the form previously approved by County Counsel will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Consultant Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration of a contract award, Transtech Engineers is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program/General Relief Opportunity for Work participants for future employment.

Transtech Engineers is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program).

Transtech Engineers adheres to the provisions of the County's Ordinance entitled Contractor Employee Jury Service ("Jury Service Programs") as codified in Sections 2.203.010 through 2.203.090 of the Los Angeles County Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A finding of environmental impact is not required to award a Consultant Services Agreement for design services. The appropriate environmental documentation will be completed prior to returning to your Board to request authorization to adopt and advertise plans and specifications to construct the project.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On April 10, 2002, Public Works issued a Request for Proposals to 31 firms to develop a select list of qualified consultants to provide as-needed traffic design services and 19 firms submitted proposals for review and evaluation. An evaluation committee, consisting of Public Works engineering staff, evaluated the proposals. These evaluations were based on technical expertise, proposed work plan, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the work requirements. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender.

Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the committee developed a select list of eight qualified firms. The firms selected were Van Dell and Associates; Transtech Engineers; Willdan Associates; Kimley-Horn and Associates; Meyer, Mohaddes Associates; Parsons Transportation Group; Katz, Okitsu and Associates; and Albert Grover and Associates. As stated in the Request for Proposal, Public Works shall select consultants from the select list of qualified consultants for each project in order of established evaluation ranking. Transtech Engineers is the next firm on the list.

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Participation by Community Business Enterprise (CBE) in the Project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith effort to utilize CBEs. Transtech Engineers is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and their proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended Agreement, as this Agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, the Request for Proposal to develop the select list of qualified consultants was posted on the "Doing Business with the County" website. Enclosed is a copy of the website posting for your reference.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended consultant services.

CONCLUSION

At such time as this recommendation is approved, please return one copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN/GROW Program)